

**Testimony on Behalf of
the Connecticut Regional Office of
the Anti-Defamation League**

IN SUPPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN

February 19, 2016

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) was founded in 1913 with a mandate to fight the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment for all. Today the ADL is one of the country's leading civil rights and human services organizations. The Connecticut Regional Office of ADL is based in Hamden and serves the entire state of Connecticut.

We submit this testimony today to express our support for the ongoing work of The Connecticut Commission on Children, an invaluable resource to the community that provides an important voice representing the interests of children in the state. Their role in monitoring legislation, helping to develop significant policy and initiatives, providing information and conducting research, and holding government accountable is vital to serving the needs of their respective communities.

In ADL's efforts to fight hate, build hope and safeguard liberty, we have worked with the Commission on Children in several capacities. The Commission on Children is an important ally in our work providing anti-bias and anti-bullying programming to tens of thousands of children in Connecticut – including more than 20,000 last year alone – providing assistance, insight and guidance in this vital area.

The Commission is a master in organizing high-profile public forums and bringing the attention of the legislature and other community leaders to the important issues such as school safety and the impact of bias and bullying on our state's children and families. ADL has worked closely with the Commission on Children for many years to shape these programs, and we value their expertise and ability to bring together a range of organizations with similar interests.

The Commission on Children is essential to ADL's pursuit of justice and fair treatment for all in Connecticut, and necessary to ensure the success and well-being of our state's most precious resource - our children.